

MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER CRIME REDUCTION (MIOCR) GRANT PROGRAM

The MIOCR grant program supports locally developed projects aimed at reducing the involvement of mentally ill adult and juvenile offenders in the justice system ([Chapter 48, Statutes of 2006](#)). In appropriating funds for the MIOCR grants (\$22,295,500 for projects targeting mentally ill adult offenders and the same amount for projects targeting mentally ill juvenile offenders), the Legislature stipulated that they must be consistent with the intent and purpose of SB 1485, an initiative that sought to determine what works in reducing recidivism among adult mentally ill offenders ([Chapter 501, Statutes of 1998](#)). In general, the CSA's statewide evaluation of this initiative showed that the provision of appropriate mental health and support services reduces the involvement of mentally ill persons in the justice system. The Legislature also stipulated that the CSA must award the grants on a competitive basis.

At its July 19, 2006 meeting, the CSA board appointed Sheriff Gary Penrod and Chief Probation Officer Cal Remington as co-chairs of an [Executive Steering Committee](#) (ESC) established to guide development of the Request for Proposals (RFP), evaluate and rate the proposals, and develop grant award recommendations for the Board's consideration. The Board also authorized each co-chair to appoint five additional subject matter experts to the ESC, which convened on August 15 to develop recommendations on the proposal requirements and rating criteria. Staff incorporated these recommendations into a draft RFP, which the Board approved at its August 30 special session, and issued the RFP on August 31.

The CSA received 39 proposals requesting over \$38.6 million for projects targeting adult mentally ill offenders and 36 proposals requesting over \$36.6 million for projects targeting juvenile offenders with mental illness. The ESC received training on the application of the rating criteria and then evaluated the merit of the proposals. Based on the amount of available funds and the prioritized ranking of the proposals, the ESC recommended that the Board award a total of [44 grants](#). At its December 20, 2006 special session, the Board approved the ESC's funding recommendations. Although the RFP did not set aside specific amounts of money for small, medium and large counties, the proposal evaluation process resulted in a diverse group of grantees. Projects targeting adult mentally ill offenders will be implemented in seven small, nine medium and six large counties, and projects targeting juvenile mentally ill offenders will be implemented in six small, eight medium and eight large counties. Pursuant to the requirements outlined in the RFP, all of the projects are anchored in an evidence-based treatment model (e.g., Assertive Community Treatment, Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment, Family Functional Therapy and Multi-Systemic Therapy) and many incorporate promising practices (e.g., mental health courts).

Although the Legislature did not require an evaluation of the 18-month MIOCR grants, which began January 1, 2007, the CSA is committed to assessing the overall effectiveness of the funded projects on curbing recidivism among offenders with mental illness – both adults and juveniles – and sharing the findings of this assessment with state legislators, local government officials and other interested parties. Toward this end, the CSA is requiring grantees to collect and report data that will enable staff to describe the populations served by the projects and to assess their impact through “before and after” comparisons of participants on key variables related to recidivism and client functioning. Staff intends to augment these analyses with case studies and other pertinent information grantees include in their semi-annual progress reports to the CSA.